



July 2004

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Fred Ferrell
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director
Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Maurine Long, Price Support
Max Sell, Production Flexibility

Nominations Accepted for County Committee Election

The annual election for the Farm Service Agency county committee is coming up. The first step in the process is for qualified voters to nominate candidates. If you are qualified to vote in the county committee election, you can nominate yourself or your favorite producers to run for a seat on the committee.

The county office staff will begin accepting nominations July 15. The deadline for submitting nominations is Sept. 3.

The county committee helps make national farm programs fit the needs of local producers. For example, they make decisions on price support loans, allotments and yields and disaster assistance.

Any qualified voter can nominate a producer on a FSA-669A form. Producers can also nominate themselves. Nominees must be qualified to vote in the election. They must also sign the nomination form.

Forms are on hand at the county office. You can also find them online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>.

Since the county committee serves all the producers in the county, we want to make sure the interests of all producers are represented.

We would like to see more women and minority producers involved in the election process. That means more women and minority producers nominating candidates. It also means more women and minority producers running for a seat on the committee.

Do you want a voice in making decisions that affect the farming community? Get involved in the county committee election process.

Report Changes By Sept. 30

Transfers made by producers who are enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program within the current fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30) must be reported by Sept. 30.

Transfers include change of shares, new producer being added or removed from a contract and sale of land. All producers affected by the contract revision must sign form CCC-509 and agree to the requirements of the contract by Sept. 30.

Failure to make changes may result in the loss or refund of DCP payments for the appropriate year.

| Dates to Remember | |
|-------------------|---|
| July 5 | Independence Day (observed), FSA offices closed |
| July 15 | Nominations accepted for upcoming county committee election |
| July 31 | Final reporting date for all crops |
| Sept. 3 | Last day to submit nomination for county committee election |
| Nov. 8 | County committee ballots mailed to voters |
| Dec. 6 | Last day to return county committee election ballots |
| Continues | Farm Storage Facility Loans |
| Continues | Grasslands Reserve Program |
| Continues | MILC Program |
| Continues | Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands |

Grassland Reserve Assistance

Landowners have less than a month to file applications for the Grassland Reserve Program. July 9 is the deadline to submit GRP offers and have them considered for 2004 fiscal year funding. In Missouri, more than \$3.2 million available to qualifying applicants.

Grasslands eligible for enrollment in this program may be native grassland, improved rangeland or improved pastureland. Other acreage that may qualify for enrollment includes land containing forbs or shrubs, or land located in an area historically dominated by grassland.

Offers for participation in GRP must include 40 or more contiguous acres.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will evaluate each offer and rate the eligibility of the land according to specific criteria, including current vegetative cover, susceptibility to urban sprawl and the potential for conversion to cropland. Landowners whose applications are selected for enrollment in GRP will receive assistance to support grazing operations, to increase and maintain plant and animal biodiversity and to protect grass and range lands under the greatest threat of conversion.

Payments on approved applications will be administered through the FSA county office.

2002 Ag Census Released

You might not remember it, but a while back you were asked to fill out the 2002 Agricultural Census for USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, or NASS. The report is now available, and if your family is among the 50 percent of farm families who, according to the census, have Internet access, you can view the report online.

To view or download 2002 Ag Census, visit <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>, and click on the "Census of Agriculture" link.

NAP Reminder

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or NAP, provides financial help to producers of noninsurable crops when a low yield, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs because of natural disasters. NAP also provides coverage for crops when the catastrophic level of multi-peril insurance is not offered.

To qualify, a producer must be a landowner, tenant or sharecropper who shares in the risk of producing an eligible crop. In addition, the producer's annual gross revenue cannot exceed \$2 million. A payment limitation of \$100,000 per crop year is in effect.

In addition to lacking multi-peril insurance coverage, eligible crops must be commercially produced crops that are:

| Selected Interest Rates for July 2004 | |
|--|--------|
| 90-Day Treasury Bill | 1.000% |
| Farm Operating - Direct | 4.250% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct | 6.000% |
| Limited Resource | 5.000% |
| Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher | 4.000% |
| Emergency | 3.750% |
| Farm Storage Facility | 4.375% |
| Sugar Storage Facility | 5.250% |
| Commodity Loans 1996- Present | 3.000% |

- grown for food;
- planted and grown for livestock consumption;
- grown for fiber;
- grown under a controlled environment;
- specialty crops;
- value added crops;
- sea oats or sea grass; or
- seed crops.

The program requires that producers must report the acreage and shares for all crops potentially eligible for NAP, certify crop production history and report current crop year production on or before the deadline. They must also certify that they comply with all highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.

Producers must apply for NAP coverage using Form CCC-471, "Application for Coverage," and pay the service fee at the county office. The application and service fee must be filed by the application closing date. The service fee is \$100 per crop per county or \$300 per producer per county. The fee cannot exceed a total of \$900 per producer with farming interest in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees.

To report losses in a timely manner, producers must complete Part B, "Notice of Loss," on Form CCC-576, for each crop within 15 days of the:

- natural disaster;
- final planting date (for prevented planting);
- date damage or loss becomes apparent; or
- the normal harvest date.

An adjuster must be scheduled to document each loss condition. In addition to documentation of the disaster condition, appraisals or post-harvest inspections may be needed to document losses.

Producers of hand harvested crops must notify the county office staff within 15 days after harvest is completed and before destruction of the crop, so that an appraisal of the remaining production can be completed. The purpose of this appraisal is to document production.

| Deadlines for 2005 NAP | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sept. 1, 2004 | Christmas trees, mushrooms, nursery, sod, spinach greens |
| Sept. 30, 2004 | Barley, canola, wheat |
| Oct. 20, 2004 | Apples, grapes, peaches |
| Dec. 1, 2004 | Honey |
| Dec. 31, 2004 | Red potatoes |

TAA Requests Begin in August

Producers seeking assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program for fiscal year 2005 may submit their requests to the Foreign Agricultural Service starting Aug. 16, 2004, and running through Jan. 31, 2005.

Under TAA, USDA provides technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible farmers and fishermen whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities.

After a petition has been certified for a group, eligible farmers and fishermen will have 90 days to contact the Farm Service Agency to apply for assistance.

Petitioners should file petition form FAS 930 in accordance with 7 CFR 1580.201. A Federal Register notice announcing the petition period for fiscal year 2005 was published on June 24, 2004. This notice may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/fr/notices/html>.

FAS must receive the petition by 5 p.m. EST, Jan. 31, 2005. Petitioners can send their petition by fax to (202) 720-0876, or by email to trade.adjustment@fas.usda.gov.

Mail petitions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Trade Adjustment Assistance Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 1021, Washington, DC 20250-1021. Use of fax or email is preferred.

The TAA petition form is located on the Web at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/resource.htm>.

For further information or questions about completing form FAS-930, contact the TAA coordinator at (202) 720-2916. General information about the TAA program can be found on the program's Web site: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/taa/taaindex.htm>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

FSA Farm Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements.

If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with the county office staff about eligibility, as well as maximum loan amounts, rates, term and use of proceeds.

If you have Internet access, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafl/default.htm> to learn more about FSA loans.

FSA Assists RMA

FSA county office staff will be assisting Risk Management Agency and insurance providers in monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA staff will be making two inspections; one during the growing season and one during the time harvest is normal for the crop.

The staff will be checking to see if reported crops have been planted and cared for in a workmanlike manner. All suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be referred to RMA.

Producers may report suspected cases of fraud, waste, and abuse to the county office staff, RMA office or Office of Inspector General.

FSA will assist RMA with auditing claims.